



All For One

Introduction: The church is continuing to make impact. The gospel is being preached and people are being saved. The apostle's are carrying out the mission of Acts 1:8. The Lord prepares Peter to receive the understanding that the gospel is for all people—including the gentiles.

Text: Acts 10

Discussion:

1. Icebreaker: When have you allowed your tradition to hinder you from following God?
2. How does the Holy Spirit prepare the heart of Cornelius and Peter in this story?
3. Describe the character of Cornelius. What does a “God-fearer” mean? Why do you know that is a very moral individual but is not a Christian?
4. Why is devotion to a religion not enough to save an individual?
5. Read Acts 10:43 How are people saved? Why is it important to understand who the “in him” is in this verse? How does this show the reality that belief is not enough, but that belief in Jesus is required for forgiveness of sin?
6. Why did the Lord show Peter the vision of the animals?
7. Acts 10:34—Peter fully understands his vision. How does this show that there is one God for all people?
8. How does our culture respond to the belief that there is one God for all people and that Jesus is the God for all people? Why is this statement incorrect: (We all worship the same god but call him by different names)
9. What is the gospel message in Peter's sermon?
10. Acts 10:24. What does this show about the heart of Cornelius? Who are your friends and relatives that need to hear the gospel?
11. Acts 10:44-48. This is often called the “Gentile Pentecost” by theologians. The Holy Spirit falls upon Cornelius and those who heard the gospel. The Christians with Peter were amazed at what had happened. Why? Because the Holy Spirit was poured out on the gentiles. How did they know this? They heard them speaking in tongues. The speaking of tongues, therefore, was a sign to the Jewish Christians that the Holy Spirit was “even” given to the gentiles in the same way that they had received the Holy Spirit. This is a clear indication and seal of approval that the gospel is for all who believe in Jesus. Peter, and those with him, understood that day that there is one God for all people!
12. Why is it important to understand the purpose behind the gentile pentecost and not attempt to make this the normative experience for salvation?

Think About it:

There is one plan of salvation for all people. There is not a Muslim god, a buddhist god, a secular god . . . there is only one true God who has the power to save. God saves people from every tongue, tribe, and nation. The gospel message is to be taken to the ends of the earth because there is one God for all people!

Moving Forward:

Position yourself in prayer and Bible study to hear from the Holy Spirit. Be aware of the work of God around you. Understand that the Holy Spirit is the great evangelist and that he is doing work in the hearts and lives of people. Pray for those you work with, go to school with, play sports with, etc. Be open to opportunities to share the good news with someone, pray for someone, or invite them to church.